



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 September 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- The U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Fincen, has shut down its QuikNews e-mail messaging system after unidentified hackers used it to broadcast disturbing images of civilian casualties in Iraq. (See item [9](#))
- The Associated Press reports a veteran air traffic controller was removed from his job at McCarran International Airport while authorities investigate a runway near miss involving two commercial airliners. (See item [10](#))
- The New York Times reports John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in Thursday, September 29, as the 17th chief justice of the United States after winning Senate approval with a solid majority. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 29, New York Times* — **Chevron oil platform is adrift in the Gulf.** Five days after Hurricane Rita made landfall, the extent of the damage to offshore oil operations in the Gulf of Mexico sharpened on Wednesday, September 28, after Chevron indicated that one of its three large platforms had capsized after losing its moorings. The deepwater platform, called

Typhoon, was spotted Sunday, September 25, drifting nearly 80 miles from its original position, a Chevron spokesperson, Mickey Driver, said. Offshore platforms, especially those that operate in deep water, are designed to withstand the most severe storms. Typhoon's accident came a few weeks after Royal Dutch Shell, the largest operator in the gulf, said that its Mars platform, which accounted for 15 percent of the gulf's oil production, had been damaged by Hurricane Katrina. After initial relief that Hurricane Rita had largely spared the oil and gas industry, analysts are becoming increasingly concerned about how quickly oil and gas production can be restored. Those worries pushed up energy prices in New York on Wednesday, September 28, with natural gas futures closing at \$13.90 a thousand cubic feet, up 9.8 percent, after touching \$14.80 earlier in the day. Oil futures jumped two percent and closed at \$66.35 a barrel.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/29/business/29rigs.html?pagewanted=all>

2. *September 29, Associated Press* — **High winds knock power out across New York state.**

Damaging winds toppled trees and left tens of thousands of people without power as a fast-moving storm whipped through upstate New York toward Canada Thursday, September 29. Some 27,000 homes scattered across western New York were left in the dark, forcing a handful of the region's schools to delay the start of classes. Meanwhile, in one of the biggest single concentrated outages, roughly 3,000 city residents on the south side of Syracuse had their power wiped out by heavy gusts. Niagara Mohawk reported 52,000 customers had lost power throughout the state. Another 17,000 customers of New York State Electric & Gas were also without service. Among those without electricity were 3,200 NYSEG customers in the Oneonta area and about 3,000 in the Plattsburgh area.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2005/09/29/high_winds_knock_power_out_across_new_york_state/

3. *September 29, Reuters* — **Europe lines up gasoline exports to U.S.** European exporters are preparing another wave of gasoline and distillate arbitrage cargoes to the United States to fill up gaps in the U.S. supply chain caused by recent hurricanes. At one point this week, more than 30 percent of U.S. refining capacity was offline. The U.S. government forecasts at least 15 percent — 1.3 million barrels per day of gasoline and 700,000 barrels per day of distillate fuel — will remain offline for a few more weeks. Most cargoes are heading for U.S. ports, though a cargo of Scandinavian gasoline is also bound for Mexico's eastern coast to replace its usual imports from U.S. Gulf Coast refineries. In addition to concerns about a crunch on motor fuel supplies, the refinery outages have raised the prospect of a heating oil shortage with winter on the way.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2005/09/29/europe_lines_up_gasoline_exports_to_us/

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *September 29, WOAI-TV (TX)* — **Tanker explosion shuts down Texas interstate.** Things have returned to normal after a tanker explosion along Texas Interstate-37 shut down traffic Wednesday morning, September 28. The incident occurred at I-37 and Highway 281 in Atascosa County, TX, at 9 a.m. CDT. The Texas Department of Public Safety said the driver of the 18-wheeler, carrying 7,200 gallons of diesel fuel, lost control of his load and jack-knifed. The rig then caught fire and exploded. Smoke could be seen for miles. No one was hurt, but

northbound traffic had to be re-routed until approximately 2:30 p.m. CDT.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9521083/>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *September 29, Bloomberg News* — **E*Trade agrees to buy JPMorgan's BrownCo for \$1.6 billion.** E*Trade Financial Corporation agreed to buy JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s BrownCo for \$1.6 billion in cash to gain wealthier, more profitable clients. The purchase gives E*Trade 200,000 new customers with an average balance of more than \$145,000, the company said Thursday, September 29, in a statement. That's more than quadruple E*Trade's current average of \$33,400. The New York-based company will double its portfolio of margin loans, used by customers for trading, to \$6.2 billion. E*Trade is buying BrownCo less than eight weeks after agreeing to take over Harrisdirect, whose clients have average balances of \$70,000. E*Trade will still lag behind its competitors once the Harrisdirect and BrownCo acquisitions are completed, with about 160,000 average daily trades.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=aafO.yPy 3FEY&refer=us>

6. *September 29, Associated Press* — **University of Georgia: Hacker may have student information.** The University of Georgia (UGA) said a computer hacker may have accessed the names and Social Security numbers of at least 1,600 current and former employees. The university was working with state and federal authorities to investigate the breach, which was discovered September 19. "To this point there has been no evidence, direct or indirect, that any of this information has actually been misused," said Arnett C. Mace Jr., the school's provost. University officials say 2,429 Social Security numbers were exposed, but there was some repetition and the number of affected people is expected to be smaller. Last year, a hacker broke into a UGA computer and may have accessed credit card information for about 32,000 students. The university never caught the hacker, but was not aware of any misuse of that information, said Tom Jackson, a UGA spokesperson.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/29/AR2005092900392.html>

7. *September 29, Associated Press* — **Updated security features highlight new \$10 bill.** Red, yellow, and blue are the colors featured on the newly redesigned \$10 bill, the third currency denomination to add splashes of color to the traditional green of U.S. currency. Some 800 million of the new bills will be put into circulation starting early next year in the government's latest effort to stay ahead of tech-savvy counterfeiters. "The craftsmanship that goes into our currency is unmatched anywhere in the world. So is our commitment to safeguarding that currency," said Treasury Secretary John Snow, who participated in an unveiling ceremony on Ellis Island in the New York harbor. Other security features of the \$10 bill, which were

introduced in an earlier makeover, include a plastic security thread that repeats "USA Ten" in tiny print. There is also a watermark that can be seen when the bill is held up to the light, and color-shifting ink that makes the numeral "10" to the right of Hamilton change color from copper to green when the bill is tilted. Plans call for the \$100 bill to be redesigned in 2007, a rollout delayed so more security features can be added to the favorite denomination of counterfeiters outside the U.S.

Treasury Secretary John W. Snow's remarks on the unveiling of the new bill:

<http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js2953.htm>

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-ten29.html>

8. *September 28, ZDNet News* — **Australia proposes smart cards for millions.** The Australian government is working on a proposal to deploy smart cards to millions of citizens under a project to slash administrative costs and crack down on identity theft. Senator Eric Abetz, the special minister of state, said Wednesday, September 28, that he and Joe Hockey, minister for human services, are working on a project in which cards incorporating smart chip technology and a photograph of the bearer would replace a raft of government services and concession-cards, including Medicare cards. Abetz said that 26 government services and concession-cards could be replaced if and when the new card is distributed. The project under consideration is believed to cost around \$380 million. The government is hoping to launch the first cards in about two years.

Source: http://news.zdnet.com/2100-1009_22-5884619.html

9. *September 28, Fine Extra* — **U.S. financial crimes network compromised.** The U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (Fincen) has shut down its QuikNews e-mail messaging system after unidentified hackers used it to broadcast disturbing images of civilian casualties in Iraq. The breach of security is an embarrassment for the U.S. Department of Treasury, which is responsible for enforcing regulations against money laundering and terrorist financing. In a statement, Fincen sought to reassure subscribers that "Bank Secrecy Act data and all other sensitive information maintained on internal systems by Fincen are secure and were in no way, shape or form compromised by this incident." The agency says the QuikNews system resides outside Fincen's security perimeter and is not connected to any other Fincen systems. As an added precaution, the department shut down its Websites over the weekend and replaced and updated security applications and equipment.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=14318>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *September 29, Associated Press* — **Air controller loses job after near miss.** A veteran air traffic controller was stripped of his job at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas while authorities investigate a runway near miss involving two commercial airliners, officials said. The planes did not collide in the September 22 incident, and no one was hurt. About 100 feet separated the planes in what the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) characterized on Wednesday, September 28, as a runway incursion but the airport director, Randall Walker, called a "near miss." The FAA said it did not appear the pilots of America West Flight 539 to Cleveland and Air Canada Flight 593 from Toronto had to take evasive action. The controller,

whose name was not released, was faulted for allowing the Air Canada jet, which had just landed, to taxi across a runway where the America West jet was taking off. The America West jet had gotten high enough in the air to miss the taxiing jet. The controller had more than 10 years of experience at McCarran, the nation's sixth-busiest airport.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050929/ap_on_re_us/airport_near_miss:_ylt=AgjkPZZmThht_hiNkMUBBjBG2ocA:_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

11. *September 29, Associated Press* — **Amtrak train derails in Missouri.** An Amtrak train derailed in eastern Missouri after apparently striking boulders on the tracks from a rockslide, officials said. Eleven people suffered minor injuries. It was not immediately clear how many people were on the train. Jefferson County Sheriff Glenn Boyer said it was carrying 130 passengers and crewmembers, but an Amtrak spokesperson later said there were 103 people onboard. The Texas Eagle train, traveling from Chicago to San Antonio, was moving slowly through a winding area when it apparently struck the rockslide late Wednesday, September 28, Boyer said. He described boulders about half the size of a car hood on the track. The cause of the slide was not known, but the area had received about 1 1/2 inches of rain earlier Wednesday. The derailment happened near Blackwell, about 50 miles southwest of St. Louis. All the passenger cars remained upright, according to Amtrak and local officials.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-29-amtrak-derailment_x.htm

12. *September 29, Department of Transportation* — **Federal support for repairing airports damaged by Hurricane Rita.** Airports in Texas and Louisiana damaged by Hurricane Rita will receive federal help to make repairs so flights that are crucial to the local economy can begin soon, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced Thursday, September 29, during a visit to inspect hurricane damage at the Southeast Texas Regional Airport in Beaumont and Louisiana's Lake Charles Regional Airport. Secretary Mineta announced that the Federal Aviation Administration has already begun assessing damage to radars, navigational aids, communications equipment, and facilities. Once these assessments are completed, the Secretary is committed to working quickly to make sure the facilities have federal support for making needed repairs. Restoring general aviation flights is vital to the local economy because they help get engineers to oil rigs, connect business people to jobs and provide a base of operations for on-shore patrols of pipelines, Mineta noted.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/DOT14005.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *September 29, Associated Press* — **Post office tests hold-for-pickup service.** The Postal Service is testing a new delivery option in which large or valuable items would be held at local post offices for pickup rather than left at people's homes. The test involves Dell computers, but officials said the service will be made available to other shippers if it proves a success. Fruit shippers, concerned about having their holiday packages freeze in northern states, are especially interested, postal package manager Jim Cochran said. Once the item is at a local post office the recipient would be advised where it is and what hours it can be collected.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050929/ap_on_re_us/hold_the_mai

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Agriculture Sector

14. *September 29, Southwest Farm Press* — **Nematodes pose serious threat to West Texas cotton.** Terry Wheeler, Texas A&M research plant pathologist and nematologist, says 40 percent to 45 percent of the West Texas area's cotton soils have root-knot nematode infestations. Symptoms may be subtle, she says. Growers may be losing pounds without realizing the cause, she says. Nematode populations are dynamic. They continue to build year after year. Some fields lose a significant percentage of yield to nematodes. Wheeler says a farm she checked using infrared imaging shows devastating yield losses to nematodes. She said no resistant variety exists. She says anything that stresses a cotton crop may exacerbate nematode damage. Nematode damage symptoms may include stunted plants, galled roots, and overall poor performance.
Source: <http://southwestfarmpress.com/news/9-29-05-nematodes-threaten-cotton/>
15. *September 29, Patriot-News (PA)* — **Pennsylvania orders deer farms to test for chronic wasting disease.** Starting Saturday, October 1, deer farmers statewide must begin testing their animals for chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal illness that has struck in neighboring states but has steered clear of Pennsylvania. Testing, overseen by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, had been voluntary for several years. But as CWD moves closer to Pennsylvania, state officials have decided to make the testing mandatory on deer farms. CWD has mostly afflicted deer in the Midwest and Canada. But a case was reported in Hampshire County, WV, within 25 miles of Pennsylvania, this month. Earlier this year, the disease was found in Oneida County in central New York, about 90 miles from Pennsylvania. CWD is fatal to animals, attacking the nervous system of deer and elk. Under the state's testing program, deer farmers must account for any deer that die and have the carcasses tested for CWD, said David Griffith, president of the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association. Pennsylvania is home to about 900 farms that raise deer, elk, and other game for sale to breeders and private hunting ranches. Testing will hit deer farmers with hundreds to thousands of dollars in added expenses, Griffith said.
Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/new/s/112798589751180.xml&coll=1>
16. *September 29, Agricultural Research Service* — **New soybean resists nematodes and pathogens.** High seed yield and unique resistance to nematodes and several diseases are the key qualities of new soybean lines developed by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. The release of soybean lines JTN-5303 and JTN-5503 was announced in Jackson, TN, during a ceremony hosted jointly by ARS and the experiment station. According to Prakash R. Arelli, a geneticist at the ARS Nematology Research Unit, the new lines have broad resistance to multiple races of soybean cyst nematode (SCN). This is the most destructive soybean pest in the U.S., causing an annual estimated loss of \$1.1 billion. Both lines were also selected for resistance to several fungal pathogens, including sudden death syndrome, stem canker, and frogeye leaf spot, with moderate resistance

to charcoal rot. Previous lines have never had this unique combination of resistance to both SCN and pathogens.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

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Food Sector

17. *September 28, Food and Drug Administration* — Food facilities registration final rule issued.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is joining with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Wednesday, September 28, to announce the issuance of a final rule implementing the food facilities registration provision of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (the Bioterrorism Act). The rule requires domestic and foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for consumption in the U.S. to register with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Information provided to FDA under this final rule will help the Agency identify and locate promptly food processors and other establishments, in the event of deliberate or accidental contamination of the food supply. Except for specific exemptions, the registration requirements apply to all facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food, including animal feed, dietary supplements, infant formula, beverages, and food additives.

Bioterrorism Act of 2002: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/bioact.html>

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2005/new01236.html>

18. *September 28, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — Country hams recalled. Wholesome Foods, Inc., an Edinburg, VA, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 165 pounds of cooked country hams that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Wednesday, September 28. The hams were distributed to retail establishments in Rockingham County, VA. The problem was discovered through company microbiological sampling. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of the product. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall_041_2005_release/index.asp

19. *September 28, Georgia Institute of Technology* — Researchers uncover *E. coli*'s defense mechanism. Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the John Innes Center in the United Kingdom have uncovered a mechanism with which disease-causing bacteria may thwart the body's natural defense responses. "Nitric oxide is produced by the body to fight infections. We discovered a mechanism that allows bacterial cells to detect nitric oxide and turn it into something that's harmless to the cell," said Stephen Spiro, associate professor at Georgia Tech. Learning how the bacteria handle the body's immune response is the first step in developing more effective medicines. The researchers focused their study on the NorR protein. In response to nitric oxide, NorR binds to DNA in order to regulate expression of an enzyme that reduces the amount of nitric oxide in the bacteria. Since nitric oxide binds to metals, the researchers suspected that there might be a metal in the protein. "It turns out that the protein NorR contains a single molecule of iron," said Spiro. "Our study found that the nitric oxide binds to the iron, which in turn activates the protein." Once activated, the protein controls

expression of the norVW genes. These genes encode an enzyme that removes the nitric oxide, allowing the bacteria to fend off the body's defenses.

Source: <http://www.gatech.edu/news-room/release.php?id=664>

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Water Sector

20. *September 29, Morning Call (PA)* — **Water supply threatened by vandalism.** Three days after the East Stroudsburg, PA, Council issued a drought watch, someone broke into a shed at the borough's reservoir, opened the main valve that controls water flow and flushed away about a week's supply of water, according to officials. The weekend vandalism has caused water levels to drop so low, Borough Council may issue a drought emergency, said John Blick, East Stroudsburg's health and codes officer. If the emergency declaration is adopted everyone in the borough would be prohibited from such water-wasting practices as washing cars and watering lawns, he said. The 302-million-gallon reservoir, in Smithfield Township, supplies drinking and sanitary water to 14,000 borough residents. The main reservoir, which sits above a holding basin, has some gated areas but is largely open to the public.

Source: http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-b4_3watersep29.0.4564541_story?coll=all-newslocal-hed

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Public Health Sector

21. *September 29, Boston Globe (MA)* — **Disease trackers receive funding.** A team of Boston, MA, researchers have been awarded a \$4.5 million federal grant to establish a novel computerized tracking system designed to rapidly identify disease outbreaks by peering directly into patient medical records and hunting for worrisome diagnoses. The initiative, championed by doctors at Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital Boston, aims to supplant an archaic system relied on for decades to detect clusters of infectious illnesses. Now, it can take as long as two weeks for state disease investigators to receive laboratory reports on illnesses that in the interim can gain a dangerous foothold. If the experiment underwritten by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention succeeds, it would herald a new era in public health. "With this system, we would be starting with a lot more information and a lot sooner," said Alfred DeMaria, top disease tracker at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. "In my generation, you'd go to the emergency room and go through 600 intake sheets and try to find something. It wasn't a very efficient way of doing things." The grant will be used to create a system that daily culls patient records at their doctors' offices, gleaning information on diagnoses and lab tests.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/09/29/disease_trackers_get_45m_us_grant/

22. *September 29, Japan Today* — **Government to tighten control on viruses, germs to prevent bioterror.** The Japanese health ministry plans to tighten the control of 57 pathogenic microorganisms as part of measures to prevent bioterrorism, according to an outline of a

revision bill for the infectious disease law, which was made available on Wednesday, September 28. The 57 viruses and germs are divided into four categories depending on the degree of danger they pose, with the possession, sale, import, and production of six most dangerous viruses prohibited unless they are used for official tests and research, the outline says. Researchers are currently responsible for safe management of pathogenic microorganisms, but the government has been seeking to tighten control on them.

Source: <http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=news&cat=1&id=350631>

23. *September 29, Agence France Presse* — **United Nations ratchets up preparedness for expected human avian flu pandemic.** The United Nations (UN) announced plans Thursday, September 29, to ratchet up its planning for an expected human avian flu pandemic, naming a special coordinator to lead a three-pronged strategy involving prevention, preparedness, and response. UN chief Kofi Annan appointed David Nabarro, a Briton who is one of the leading World Health Organization (WHO)'s public health experts, as senior UN coordinator for avian and human influenza. "We expect the next (human) influenza pandemic to come at any time now. It is likely to be caused by a mutant of the virus that is currently causing bird flu in Asia," Nabarro told reporters as he outlined a three-pronged strategy to deal with the threat. He stressed the crucial importance of preparedness "so if there is a species jump, if the virus moves and mutates from the bird population to the human population, we are ready to respond, to neutralize it, to contain it, and to delay the development of a major flu pandemic." UN Press Release: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sga946.doc.htm>
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050929/hl_afp/healthfluun_050929163954

24. *September 28, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* — **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announces joint effort to develop pandemic influenza vaccines.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt Wednesday, September 28, announced that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and MedImmune Inc. have signed a cooperative research and development agreement for the development of vaccines against avian influenza viruses that have the potential to cause pandemics. Under the agreement, NIAID and MedImmune will produce and test multiple vaccines against potential pandemic flu strains, including the H5N1 avian influenza virus. "The threat of pandemic flu is an urgent health challenge," Leavitt said. "This agreement will help speed the process of developing vaccines we will need to fight an outbreak if the avian flu starts to spread rapidly through the human population." The agreement specifies that the scientists will add selected genes from avian flu viruses with pandemic potential into a weakened human flu virus to create several attenuated, live virus vaccines candidates. Infectious disease experts worry that avian influenza viruses, which until recently have rarely infected people, could trigger a devastating global flu outbreak.
Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2005pres/20050928.html>

25. *September 28, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases* — **Scientists show that tick-borne flaviviruses use novel mechanism to evade host defenses.** Researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) have made the surprising discovery that flaviviruses, which cause diseases such as West Nile fever, yellow fever, and forms of encephalitis, evade immune system defenses in different ways depending on whether they are transmitted by mosquitoes or ticks. This finding could lead to new approaches to developing vaccines and treatments against these illnesses. "Flaviviruses exact an enormous toll

in terms of illness and death worldwide,” notes NIAID Director Anthony Fauci.

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2005/niaid-28.htm>

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Government Sector

26. *September 29, New York Times* — **John Roberts sworn in as chief justice.** John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in Thursday, September 29, as the 17th chief justice of the United States after winning Senate approval with a solid majority. Roberts, 50, was given the oath of office by the senior associate justice, John Paul Stevens, at a ceremony in the White House's East Room. The ceremony was witnessed by President Bush, six other justices of the Supreme Court, Roberts' wife and the couple's two children, as well as members of the Senate and other invited guests. Chief Justice Roberts will preside over the Supreme Court term that begins on Monday, October 3. In moving up from the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, he succeeds Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, for whom he was once a law clerk. Roberts's remarks after oath: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/29/politics/29robertstranscript.html>

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/29/politics/politicsspecial1/29cnd-confirm.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *September 29, The Winchester Star (VA)* — **Disaster drill will test readiness in Virginia.** A disaster drill on Saturday, October 1, will allow the Shenandoah region, VA, to see if it is prepared for an emergency response. The specific location and details of the exercise that will begin at 7:45 a.m. EDT are not being released. Saturday's exercise will consist of simulated terrorism and related tertiary events in the Northern Shenandoah Valley that will develop into regional and state events. One goal of the exercise is to test communication and response among the agencies of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Public Safety Initiative, government agencies, and the hospitals. Other objectives include mass casualty incident management, regional traffic and transportation system management, and implementation of multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional incident elements in emergency response. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Public Safety Initiative is comprised of the Frederick County, Winchester, Shenandoah County, and Mount Weather Fire and Rescue Departments. The Frederick County Sheriff's Department, Winchester Police Department, Warren County Fire and Rescue Services, Valley Health, and the Virginia Department Health are also part of the Initiative. The exercise is sponsored by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Public Safety Initiative, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness.

Source: http://www.winchesterstar.com/TheWinchesterStar/050929/Area_drill.asp

28. *September 28, The Sun Herald (MS)* — **Federal officials asked to prepare emergency drill for earthquake zone.** Earthquake experts agree it's a matter of when, not if, another major earthquake strikes along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and

Rita, two Missouri lawmakers said Wednesday, September 28, it's time to get ready. U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R–MO) and Senator Jim Talent (R–MO) asked Homeland Security Director Michael Chertoff to organize within the next year an emergency response drill in anticipation of a potential earthquake that could devastate a region from Memphis, TN, to St. Louis, MO. A magnitude 8.0 to 9.0 quake would devastate the region, the lawmakers wrote — interstate highways would become impassable, bridges would collapse, electricity would go out, communications towers would fall. "We have learned the lessons of hurricane season well, and we need to apply this knowledge to all kinds of natural disasters, especially earthquakes," said Emerson, whose 8th District covers southeast Missouri. The letter seeks a coordinated exercise among state, local and federal agencies. In addition, it asks that a scenario be examined in which a major quake would happen at a time when the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers are at flood stage.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/thesunherald/12764022.htm>

29. *September 28, Defense Link* — **Texas National Guard, Fort Sam Houston continue Hurricane Rita relief efforts.** Elements of the Texas National Guard continue supporting relief efforts for areas affected by Hurricane Rita, and Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, TX, has been providing essential support, military officials reported. The Texas National Guard placed fuel–distribution sites in the Texas towns of Beaumont and Lufkin on Wednesday, September 28. The National Guard will be used to supply fuel to state and local emergency vehicles and facilities in the areas affected by Hurricane Rita. Fort Sam Houston has been carrying out several support missions to facilitate relief efforts in the area. The Fort Sam Houston police extended hours at access–control points and blocked off roads on post to escort hundreds. As of Tuesday, September 27, the post had facilitated the movement of 785 trucks to the small rural towns in southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas hardest hit by the hurricane. Each truck can hold 179,000 military meals, 41,000 pounds of ice, and nearly 18,000 liters of water. Fort Sam Houston also supports Joint Task Force Rita. The task force mission is to provide immediate support to enhance the relief efforts of federal, state and local governments while mitigating the suffering of those citizens impacted by Hurricane Rita, officials said.

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2005/20050928_2872.html

30. *September 28, ABC News* — **Texas Emergency Hurricane Hotline outsourced to India.** As Hurricane Rita approached Texas, more than 300 people in Nacogdoches County, TX, called their local emergency number. What they didn't know was that the operators on the other end of the phone were 7,000 miles away — in India. With power down and limited means of communication, Nacogdoches County Judge Sue Kennedy, who acts as the emergency coordinator, decided to set up a phone bank. She called a local firm that runs call centers and asked if they could help the community. Effective Teleservices, based in Nacogdoches, had a power generator big enough to keep a phone bank running but management didn't want to put employees in harm's way by making them come to work. So the operating officer, Matthew Rocco, offered what he had proposed to his other clients: He could redirect calls to the company's offshore site in India, in a city north of Mumbai. Accepting Rocco's offer, Kennedy and her staff generated a script with vital information regarding the location of ad–hoc shelters and what people needed when they left home. The Indian operators offered words of encouragement to concerned Nacogdoches callers, and there were no reports of problems during the operation, Kennedy said.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/HurricaneRita/story?id=1164181&page=1>

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. *September 29, Washington Post* — **U.S. insists on keeping control of Web.** The U.S. is rejecting offers from the UN to take control over the main computers that direct traffic on the Internet. Ambassador David Gross, the U.S. coordinator for international communications and information policy at the State Department said, "We will not agree to the UN taking over the management of the Internet. "Some countries want that. We think that's unacceptable." Some countries have been upset that the United States and European countries secured a multitude of available Internet addresses, thus leaving developing nations with a limited supply to share. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/29/AR2005092900478.html>
32. *September 28, Security Focus* — **Microsoft Internet Explorer XmlHttpRequest parameter validation weakness.** A vulnerability has been found in the Microsoft Internet Explorer that permits the injection of arbitrary HTTP requests due to improper verification of parameters passed to XmlHttpRequest. An attack may have consequences including HTTP request smuggling attacks, man in the middle attacks, and information disclosure. Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14969/discuss>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of public exploit code for a buffer overflow vulnerability in Mozilla products, including the Mozilla Suite, and Mozilla Firefox. The vulnerability exists in the way Mozilla products handle URIs containing certain IDN encoded hostnames. A remote attacker who is able to convince a user to view a specially crafted HTML document may be able to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user running the vulnerable application.

More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

* VU#573857 – Mozilla-based browsers contain a buffer overflow in handling URIs containing a malformed IDN hostname

US-CERT encourages Mozilla users to upgrade to version 1.0.7 and Mozilla Suite users to upgrade to version 1.7.12 as soon as possible.

US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events such as Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. For more information please refer to: <http://www.us-cert.gov/current/#kat>

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Website for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice. <http://www.fema.gov/>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6881 (bittorrent), 1026 (win-rpc), 26777 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 40000 (----), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 2234 (directplay), 80 (www) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

33. *September 29, Owings Mills Times (MD)* — Cameras sought to aid Maryland police.

Baltimore County Councilman Kevin Kamenetz who sponsored a bill to put surveillance cameras in shopping centers wants to expand their use to fight crime in county neighborhoods. Kamenetz said he has discussed the creation of a surveillance camera program to be used in some neighborhoods with county Police Chief Terrence Sheridan. The program would be similar to those in place in Baltimore City and in Chicago which uses about 2,000 cameras citywide to monitor criminal activity. City police currently operate about 200 remote surveillance cameras throughout Baltimore. Col. James Johnson said the Baltimore police department has had some conversations internally about security cameras, but no decision has been made. The county's Department of Public Works already has installed about 200 cameras at 115 busy intersections around the county, such as Kenilworth Road and Bosley Avenue in Towson. The cameras do not record images but emit electronic signals that are used to monitor traffic flow and adjust traffic-light patterns. Kamenetz said he has been told the system could be converted for surveillance purposes.

Source: http://news.mywebpal.com/news_tool_v2.cfm?pnplID=809&NewsID=663931&CategoryID=5830&show=localnews&om=1

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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